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CA Horse Survives Wildfires

When WCRO staff responded to the swift-moving Poe fire in Northern California with a temporary mobile animal shelter (capable of housing more than 50 small animals), they learned that many horses and livestock had been left behind to fend for themselves. On the second day of operations, WCRO's Robert Reder and local volunteer Mat Going responded to a report of a horse who had been left behind at a ranch where the fire had destroyed several hundred acres of woodlands the night before. When they arrived at the ranch, smoke could still be seen rising from stumps and logs where tall trees had once stood. The ground and rocks were not to the touch. It was a scene of total devastation.

Based on information from neighbors,
continued on page 2

WCRO's Bob Reder with Smokey after the horse's rescue from California wildfires.



Arthur's Plight May Change State's Handling of Bears

The story of Arthur first came to WCRO's attention thanks to a call from a newspaper reporter in the small, picturesque community of Mammoth Lakes, located in the Sierra Nevada mountain range in California. Arthur, an adult black bear, had been living in a drainage culvert near a golf course when residents noticed that he was dragging one of his hind legs. "It was believed that the bear was possibly suffering from a gunshot wound," said WCRO Regional Coordinator Bob Reder. Concerned citizens notified California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) officials who at first suggested that "nature should take its course," but later decided that the bear should be euthanized.

According to Reder, "The latter decision caused a great deal of outcry among Mammoth Lakes' citizens." In an effort to save Arthur, WCRO staff intervened. "Thankfully, DFG decided to capture and transport Arthur to its holding facility in Rancho Cordova, where he was given a preliminary medical examination," he said. Arthur was found to be underweight for an adult black bear who was preparing for hibernation. A more in-depth examination followed at the University of California (UC) at Davis, where x-rays revealed three small shotgun pellets imbedded in Arthur's hindquarters. Although the wounds had long since healed, Arthur was diagnosed as suffering from a degenerative bone condition caused by either bacterial or fungal infection, possibly related to having been shot, and that the condition could diminish his chances for survival in the wild. WCRO requested and received

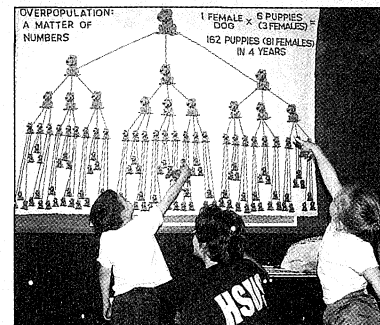


BOB REDER/HSUS

approval from DFG to have an HSUS wildlife expert review the x-rays and results of the examination and submit our recommendations concerning Arthur's fate.

HSUS experts concurred with the findings of the UC Davis exam, and we have recommended that Arthur be examined again in the near future to determine if the bone degeneration has worsened. In the meantime, The HSUS has recommended that Arthur be placed in an accredited sanctuary, providing he is not suffering. Should Arthur's condition show improvement, we believe he may be a candidate for release back to the wild. Such a decision will require the concurrence of DFG, whose current policy forbids the release of adult bears back into the wild. "We will continue to monitor Arthur's condition and well-being," said Reder. "And we will also be working toward a change in DFG policy toward adult black bears."

Native Nations Clinics a Success



JOHN DOMMERS/HSUS

In August, the HSUS's native nations spay/neuter and humane education clinics returned to Round Valley Reservation and then traveled for the first time to the Karuk Reservation in Happy Camp, California. "The clinics were well received and the residents were excited about our service," said WCRO Program Coordinator Cynthia Cutler. Between the two reservations, 450 animals received vaccinations, and 265 dogs and cats were spayed or neutered. Veterinary students performed the surgeries under the direct supervision of licensed veterinarians. HSUS staff members used a combination of videotapes and handmade props and banners to conduct the humane education portion of the clinics for reservation residents (see photo, above).

At the invitation of the Karuk Family Resource Center, HSUS staff attended to another large group that arrived with pets to obtain free vaccinations and basic dog obedience lessons. WCRO plans to visit other reservations in Northern California and Nevada this year. The HSUS thanks Pfizer Animal Health for donating the vaccines, and all the volunteers, dental clinics, tribal officials, and humane educators whose hard work helped to make this year's clinics a success.

2001 California Fire Season Keeps WCRO Busy

During the summer of 2001, WCRO staff responded to four California wildfires and monitored several others. In August, the Leonard fire in Calaveras County burned more than 4,000 acres and was quickly followed by the Oregon Road fire in Trinity County, which burned more than 1,700 acres and a number of homes near the town of Weaverville. At the request of animal control and sheriff's department officials in both counties, WCRO staff responded with supplies and equipment to assist with establishing temporary animal shelters, conducting animal search and rescue, and working in emergency command centers.

The fire season extended into September as the Darby fire consumed more than 13,000 acres, again in Calaveras County. "We worked closely with Calaveras County Animal Control officials to help organize teams made up of animal control officers from four surrounding counties," said



HSUS

WCRO Director Eric Sakach records information about animals housed in The HSUS's temporary shelter during last year's California wildfires.

continued from "Horse," page 1

the men began their search of the hilly terrain the horse was known to frequent. After more than an hour of searching the charred landscape, they located the gelding standing in what was once a green meadow. Somehow this lone horse had survived the flames. They were advised that the gelding was not accustomed to wearing a halter, of being led, or loaded on a trailer. Reder and Going knew these factors would make the rescue even more difficult. Although the horse was scorched on his cheeks and legs, he appeared to be in good condition, and he seemed curious about the two strangers.

Reder led the horse the mile back to where the truck and trailer had been parked. After a drink of water, some alfalfa, and many reassuring words, Reder fashioned a temporary halter, which the horse amazingly allowed to be placed over his head. Finally, after three and one-half hours, the horse was on his way to veterinary attention.

Once they had arrived at the temporary shelter, Dr. Ronald Murray of Oroville began an examination of the horse, who had been dubbed Smokey. Despite the horse's appearance, Murray was confident that Smokey had a good chance to recover with care and medication.

Dr. Murray is encouraged by Smokey's recovery and believes that most of the scorched skin may return to normal. Smokey now lives in southern Oregon in a large pasture with an older mare. The story of Smokey is more far-reaching than this happy ending. In Butte County, plans are in progress to organize a disaster response team, specifically focused on horses and livestock. WCRO has offered to facilitate those meetings between various animal welfare organizations in the Butte County area for the purpose of educating the public about disaster preparedness.

WCRO would like to thank Dr. Murray, Mat Going, the officers and members of the Paradise Horseman's Club, Butte County Animal Control, the Butte County Chapter of the American Red Cross, and the local businesses that donated funds and supplies for Smokey

First Strike Seminar Presented



From left: HSUS volunteer Elaine Azevedo, WCRO Program Specialist Carol Gay, Dr. Lynn Loar of the Pryor Foundation, HSUS's Randy Lockwood, Placer SPCA Executive Director Veronica Blake, Placer County Animal Control Manager Rick Ward, and WCRO Regional Coordinator Bob Reder at the First Strike seminar.

Ninety social workers, therapists, police officers, animal control officers, and others attended an HSUS presentation on the connection between animal abuse and human violence in November in Roseville, California. The course was co-sponsored by the Placer County SPCA and Placer County Animal Control.

According to WCRO Regional Coordinator Robert Reder, The HSUS developed the First Strike campaign to help law enforcement, social services, child services, and other agencies charged with investigating violent behavior recognize animal abuse as a sign of progressive violent behavior. "Increasing awareness leads to a better understanding of the relationship between animal cruelty and human violence of all kinds, including domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and other violent crimes," he says. And a recent year-long study of animal cruelty cases confirms this. A large number of cases of intentional animal cruelty also involved some form of family violence.

Key speaker Dr. Randall Lockwood Ph.D., HSUS vice president of research and educational outreach, explained the evidence supporting the connection between those who abuse animals and

inflict violence upon humans. Lockwood gave examples of high-profile criminals such as David Berkowitz (Son of Sam), Ted Bundy, Jeffrey Dahmer, Albert Desalvo, and more who began their lives of violence with acts of animal cruelty. In addition to Reder, other speakers included Rick Lewkowitz of the Sacramento District Attorney's Office; Terry Verhagen, elder abuse advocate; and Lynn Loar of the Pryor Foundation. The Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training and the State Humane Association of California awarded continuing education units.

HSUS, Lions Gate Send Dogfighting Message

Oscar-nominated Mexican film "Amores Perros" opened in theatres across the United States last April, and is now in video stores. The movie contains realistic scenes of dogfighting. While these scenes are shockingly realistic, The HSUS received every assurance that no dogs were ever actually fought or harmed, and Lions Gate International, Inc., the film's U.S. distributor, worked with The HSUS to educate audiences about dogfighting by placing HSUS contact information on the film, ads, posters, and in other venues promoting the film.

WCRO Director Eric Sakach, a leading authority on animal fighting who has investigated dogfighting for The HSUS, reviewed the film before its release in the U.S. "Amores Perros" is bringing dogfighting out of the shadows and placing it squarely in the public eye," he said. "In no way does this film glamorize this sadistic



HSUS

underground activity," he says. "It has the potential to reach audiences that may not be aware of dogfighting, or the fact that it goes on in the streets of our cities and in many rural communities every day. We hope viewers are shocked and outraged, and we hope they'll make sure their police departments, elected officials, and the courts in their communities are doing everything possible to eliminate animal fighting." To learn more about the film, go to www.lionsgatefilms.com/amoresperros/html/index_toc.html.

HSUS Offers Reward in Puppy Killing

A \$4,000 reward is being offered for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of those involved in the gruesome killing of a puppy in an Ontario, California, neighborhood. The perpetrator(s) tied a four-month-old pit bull to a stake, taped his mouth shut, doused him with furniture polish and set the animal on fire. Officials at the Inland Valley Humane Society (IVHS) said preliminary results of a necropsy showed the dog may have been alive when he was set ablaze. The IVHS and The HSUS have each offered rewards of \$2,000 as an incentive for anyone who may have witnessed the act. "This was calculated to cause pain in the animal," said Eric Sakach, WCRO director. Sakach was quoted in the *Los Angeles Times* saying that he "worries that the killer could be a danger to other animals in the neighborhood and even humans." Animal abuse can be a precursor to human-on-human abuse. "This person needs to be caught," he said. "This just appears to be an act of torture," added Allie Jalbert, IVHS humane investigator. "That is why we are pursuing this so aggressively." Ontario Police Department detectives are investigating the case as well.

The HSUS offers a reward of up to \$2,500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person who willfully poisons, mutilates, or tortures, or attempts to poison, mutilate, or torture any dog or cat. To learn more, contact our office.

Program Coordinator and registered veterinary technician Cynthia Cutler. According to Cutler, the teams were sent out ahead of the fire into populated areas to distribute pre-evacuation notices door-to-door. The California Highway Patrol commended the animal response teams for these pre-evacuation notices, which they credited with helping to safely expedite the evacuation of people from threatened areas. On the heels of the Darby fire, the Poe fire, near the cities of Paradise and Oroville in Butte County, burned more than 8,000 acres and destroyed 36 buildings. At the request of the American

Red Cross (ARC), Butte County Animal Control, and Butte County's Office of Emergency Services, WCRO staff established a temporary animal shelter adjacent to the ARC's mass care facility and helped to coordinate animal rescue efforts (see "CA Horse Survives Wildfires" on page 1). All of the animals displaced by the fire were reunited with their families or adopted into new homes. Whether it is a fire, flood, or some other calamity, being prepared means planning for your animals. For more about how, send a self-addressed, business size envelope to "HSUS/ARC Brochure" in care of our office.

More Than a Dream, School Makes Humane Education a Priority

Imagine a school that makes it a priority to focus on violence-free studies and promotes respect for people and animals on a daily basis. It sounds great, but to date, the burdensome regulations that govern traditional public schools have prevented such ideals from materializing.

If Dr. Yale S. Wishnick, who works for the California Teachers Association, fulfills his dream with support from The HSUS and others, California will have a charter school that will make humane and environmental education a curriculum priority, rather than an exception. Representing WCRO on Dr. Wishnick's planning committee for a violence-free charter school, WCRO Special Projects Coordinator John Dommers suggested approaches and materials that would help mold a generation of kind children who will grow up to be compassionate adults. According to Dommers, "This is one of the finest opportunities to implement humane education in classrooms that I have seen in 30 years of working for The HSUS. It was a pleasure to see more than 40 teachers, parents, and community, environmental, and animal protection groups attend the initial planning session." Dommers also noted that "The charter school concept is catching on." As of the 2001 legislative session, 37 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have signed into law charter school legislation. "What is especially nice," says Dommers, "is that charters give teachers an opportunity to create new models without being bogged down by some of the obstacles in existence. While people in traditional schools try to be innovative, they keep running into barriers. Some are contractual. Some are state mandates. Some are board policies and procedures. We will be working outside those constraints to streamline humane education programs for the proposed violence-free charter school." The HSUS will be also be bringing in the resources of its youth education division, the National Association for Humane and Environmental Education, as a resource for the project.



Students read **KIND News**, a newspaper published by The HSUS's National Association for Humane and Environmental Education featuring articles and games designed to teach kindness and respect for all living things.

I want to learn how I can help our animal friends and The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS).

Please send me information about

- ☐ Making a memorial donation to honor the life of a pet, friend, or relative.
- ☐ Providing for my pets in my will and in case of emergency.
- ☐ Planning my estate and will to help animals and The HSUS.
- ☐ Using charitable gift annuities and trusts to support The HSUS.
- ☐ Giving The HSUS a gift of stock.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DAYTIME PHONE _____

E-MAIL (OPTIONAL) _____

Promoting the protection of all animals

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Sacramento, CA 95841-7220

Legislative Update

Following is an update on recently enacted legislation and a listing of bills that may need your support. HSUS staff are constantly in contact with state legislative offices and local activists to assist in the passage of humane legislation and to stop bills considered inhumane. We cannot guarantee that The HSUS position on the bills will remain as reported here, as bills may be amended. For up-to-the-minute information and to become a member of the Humane Activist Network, contact WCRO.

Hawaii

Humane treatment of pigs. The HSUS is working with a Hawaiian organization on proposed legislation that would prohibit the practice of keeping pigs in small crates such as gestation and farrowing crates. Sen. Suzanne Chun-Oakland has agreed to introduce such a bill. Pigs are extremely active and inquisitive. When free to roam, they spend much of their day enthusiastically smelling, nibbling, and manipulating objects with their snouts. Social contact is extremely important to pigs. They play and seek out and enjoy close contact with each other. More and more communities are outraged not only by the treatment of pigs, but by the takeover of farming by industrial agriculture and the negative impacts on environmental quality, communities, and food production practices.

This bill will address what is perhaps the most inhumane method of production: the use of the gestation crate. Sows spend the majority of their lives in these crates, barely larger than their bodies, with concrete or metal-slatted floors on which they can only take a step or two backward or forward. They must eat, sleep, and eliminate in the same small space. This practice has been outlawed in other countries such as the United Kingdom and Sweden, but continues to be the principle housing method on hog factory farms in the United States.

What can you do? Write a letter of support to Sen. Suzanne Chun-Oakland, State Capitol, Honolulu, HI 96813. Please send a copy to our office.

Cockfighting. A new cockfighting ordinance has been signed into law by Honolulu Mayor Jeremy Harris. The new law sets minimum fines and raises maximum fines for the manufacture, exchange, or possession of the sharp implements known as gaffs or slashers that are attached to the legs of fighting roosters. The City and County of Honolulu, where the ordinance

has force, covers the entire island of Oahu.

Nevada

Humane euthanasia. There is a strong movement throughout the state to prohibit euthanasia of shelter animals by the use of gas chambers, decompression chambers, gun shot, or other inhumane methods. A soon-to-be-proposed bill would require that only sodium pentobarbital injection could be used. WCRO is now forming a coalition of humane organizations throughout the state on this issue and will seek a sponsor for a bill to eliminate inhumane and outdated manners of euthanasia.

Exotic animals. WCRO is working with animal advocates in Clark and Nye counties on the introduction of ordinances to regulate possession and confinement of certain exotic animals such as lions, tigers, and other large carnivores.

California

Regulate traveling circuses and carnivals. Sen. Gloria Romero introduced S.B. 1210 last session, a bill to regulate traveling circuses and carnivals with animals that perform in the state. If passed, this bill will require additional information concerning the handlers, trainers, and the history of

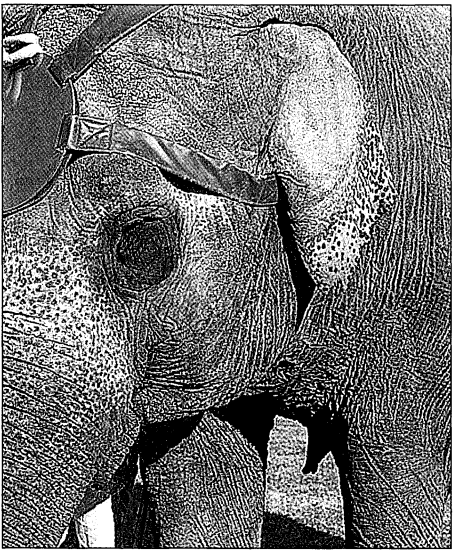
any animals involved in a public safety incident. It also would require a submitted plan for capturing escaped animals. According to the Animal Protection Institute, since 1990, captive felines have been responsible for at least 75 human attacks worldwide and one-third of those attacks resulted in fatal injuries. Since 1990, captive elephants were responsible for 43 human deaths and more than 100 injuries worldwide. Through this bill, local government officials will have advanced knowledge and can better prepare for what may be a potential problem.

What can you do? Please write or contact Sen. Romero's office in support of this bill: State Capitol, Room 4062, Sacramento, CA 95814; phone 916-445-1418; fax 916-445-0485.

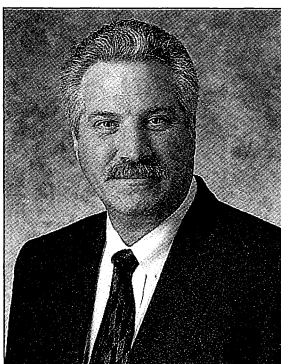
Pet-friendly license plate. Sen. Jack O'Connell introduced S.B. 1425 to provide car owners with the option of a special animal-friendly license plate. Several specialty license plates are currently available in California that fund myriad programs, including those that benefit the arts, children, and the environment. O'Connell's proposed plates would help address pet overpopulation.

For an initial fee of \$50, car owners will receive a license plate that includes the image of a dog and cat on it. Proceeds will be used to provide free and reduced cost spay/neuter services throughout California. Fourteen other states have laws allowing citizens to buy special license plates to benefit animals with most of the proceeds going to support spay/neuter programs.

"These personalized, animal-friendly license plates will be a win-win situation for the both the animals and the people of California," stated WCRO's Robert Reder. "Funds generated will help decrease the horrific amount of unwanted animals who must be euthanized each year because there are simply more cats and dogs than there are homes for them."



Director's Report



By Eric Sakach

Director of the West Coast
Regional Office

Sentences in Horse Shooting Case a Disappointment

In February, District Judge Michael Griffin sentenced the three men accused of a shooting rampage that left dozens of wild horses dead in the hills near Virginia City, Nevada, and angered people across the nation. Judge Griffin sentenced former Marines Scott Brendle, 24, and Darien Brock, 23, both of Reno, to just 60 days in jail with credit given for the time they'd spent in jail following their arrests. Anthony Merlino, 23, also of Reno, received a one-year probation sentence. In addition, Brendle and Brock were each ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine, and Merlino was ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine. Each man must also perform 100 hours of community service and pay \$500 in restitution.

The imposition of the less-than-harsh sentences is an immense disappointment to us and was largely the result of plea agreements made in January in which Brendle and Brock pleaded no contest to single gross misdemeanor counts of killing or maiming an animal. Merlino pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of disturbing the peace. The judge could have imposed one year in jail for Brendle and Brock and



Killers of wild horses like these received a judicial "slap on the wrist" in Nevada.

six months in jail for Merlino, but he chose not to.

This case leaves me feeling sorry not only for the animals who were killed for no other apparent reason than to satisfy a depraved sense of personal amusement, but also for the people of Nevada who must feel some sense of embarrassment over the inadequacies of their laws.

Trainer Acquitted in Elephant Abuse Case

In December, a Santa Clara County jury decided that star circus trainer Mark Gebel did not abuse an elephant when the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus opened in San Jose last August. Gebel was accused of injuring a 33-year-old female elephant with a hooked stick called an ankus as a group of elephants headed toward the arena for a grand finale on August 25. WCRO's Bob Reder, who met with officials from the Santa Clara Valley Humane Society and the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office to assist with case preparation and arranging expert testimony, was later quoted in the media as saying, "Despite the verdict, the trial helped raise awareness about the treatment of animals in circuses."

Contacting HSUS

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Promoting the protection of all animals

Animal Cruelty Study Released

The HSUS, as part of its First Strike campaign, has released the findings of a year-long study on animal cruelty in the United States. Results from the study show that an extremely high number of intentional cruelty cases were committed by male teens under the age of 18. The research also shows that a large number of cases of intentional animal cruelty also involved some form of family violence, whether domestic violence, child abuse, or elder abuse.

The HSUS is the first organization to conduct a national study examining the prevalence of human violence as it relates to animal cruelty incidents. The HSUS seeks to turn the nation's attention to the connection between cruelty toward animals and violence toward people (see article on page 5).

The HSUS compiled information from more than 1,600 high-profile animal cruelty cases nationwide that occurred between January and December of 2000. Reports came from well-documented sources. Of these cases, more than 900 involved intentional violence toward animals. The balance consisted of cruelty resulting from neglect.

This April, we release the second study on cruelty cases from 2001. To receive copies of both reports, call toll-free 1-888-213-0956, or send an e-mail request to FirstStrike@hsus.org.

The WCRO Regional News is a publication of The Humane Society of the United States, West Coast Regional Office, P.O. Box 417220, Sacramento, CA 95841-7220; 916-344-1710. Eric Sakach, director. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed on federal holidays.

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